

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): System for dispensing at least one liquid substance, comprising:

- at least one bag filled with a liquid substance which is to be dispensed,
- a dispensing device comprising a housing having a space for accommodating the bag, the bag comprising a first connector element

and the dispensing device comprising a second connector element, connectable to the first connector element allowing discharge of said substance from the bag,

the dispensing device further comprising retaining means for retaining the first connector element of each bag in a defined pre-connection position prior to interconnecting the first and second connector elements,

the first and second connector elements being displaceable relative to each other between a connected position and a disconnected position, and the dispensing device comprising actuator means associated with the first or second connector elements for displacing the first and second connector elements relative to each other between the connected and unconnected position.

Claims 2-3 (canceled):

Claim 4 (previously presented): System according to claim 1, wherein the space in the housing is adapted to receive an assembly of multiple bags, each bag being provided with an associated first connector element, and wherein a base element is provided interconnecting the first connector elements of the bags.

Claim 5 (previously presented): System according to claim 1, wherein the system comprises a carrier member for one or more bags.

Claim 6 (previously presented): System according to claim 4, wherein the retaining means are adapted to retain the base element.

Claim 7 (previously presented): System according to claim 6, wherein the retaining means are adapted to slidably receive the base element.

Claim 8 (previously presented): System according to claim 4, wherein the first connector elements and base element are interconnected by snap means.

Claim 9 (previously presented): System according to claim 4, wherein the dispensing device has multiple second connector elements mounted on a common support, said common support being displaceable between a connected and an unconnected position.

Claims 10-19 (canceled):

Claim 20 (previously presented): System according to claim 4, wherein a seal is fitted on the base element covering the openings of the first connector elements.

Claim 21 (previously presented): System according to claim 1, wherein each first connector element is associated with a closing means closing off a bore of the first connector element prior to interconnecting the first and second connector element.

Claim 22 (previously presented): System according to claim 21, wherein the closing means is a plug engaging a seat of the first connector element in the closed position, the plug being displaceable from the seat to an opened position upon connecting the first and second connector element.

Claim 23 (previously presented): System according to claim 1, wherein the first connector element is a female connector element having a bore and the second element is a male connector element fitting into said bore.

Claim 24 (previously presented): System according to claim 6, wherein the base element and the retaining means comprise interengaging key formations so that the base element can only be retained in a particular orientation by said retaining means.

Claim 25 (currently amended): System according to claim 6, wherein the base element (6) is ~~a~~ an elongated strip having a series of spaced receiving openings for receiving the first connector elements of the bags.

Claim 26 (previously presented): System according to claim 25, wherein the strip has retaining rails at opposite longitudinal sides thereof and the retaining means include retaining grooves for slidingly receiving the retaining rails.

Claim 27 (canceled):

Claim 28 (currently amended): An assembly of bags filled with liquid beverage components, each bag having an associated first connector element connectable to a second connector element of a dispensing device and the first connector elements being interconnected by a base element.

Claim 29 (currently amended): A bag-in-box assembly comprising a box member and an assembly of bags therein filled with liquid beverage components, each bag having an associated first connector element connectable to a second connector element of a dispensing device and the first connector elements being interconnected by a base element.

Claim 30 (withdrawn): Method for filling an assembly of multiple bags with liquid substances, each bag having an associated first connector element and a closing means for closing the first connector element after filling, comprising the step of interconnecting the bags of the assembly prior to filling by a base element interconnecting the first connector elements of the bags, after which the bags are filled and closed.

Claim 31 (previously presented): A system according to claim 1, wherein the second connector element is displaceable and in the disconnected position the second connector element is located outside the space for housing the bag.

Claim 32 (canceled):

Claim 33 (previously presented): System according to claim 1, wherein the system comprises a box in which one or more bags are accommodated.

Claim 34 (canceled):

Claim 35 (currently amended): System according to claim 1, wherein the actuator means comprise rectilinear guide means for guiding ~~the~~a common support of multiple second connector elements.

Claim 36 (currently amended): System according to claim 1, wherein the actuator means comprise a slideable member, that is slideable at right angles to ~~the~~ rectilinear guide means and interconnected to a common support of multiple second elements by a cam mechanism.

Claim 37 (previously presented): System according to claim 20, wherein the seal is removable.

Claim 38 (canceled):

Claim 39 (withdrawn): Method for filling an assembly of claim 30, wherein the bags of the assembly are filled simultaneously.

Claim 40 (previously presented): A system for dispensing at least one liquid substance, comprising:

- at least one bag filled with a liquid,
- a dispensing device having a housing and a space for receiving the bag,

the bag having a first connector element, the dispensing device having a second connector element, connectable to the first connector element and a member for retaining the first connector element of each bag in a defined pre-connection position prior to interconnecting the first and second connector elements,

the first and second connector elements are displaceable relative to each other between a connected position and a disconnected position, and

the dispensing device displacing the first and second connector elements relative to each other between the connected and unconnected position.

Claim 41 (new): System for dispensing at least one liquid substance, comprising:

- at least one bag filled with a liquid substance which is to be dispensed,
- a dispensing device comprising a housing having a space for accommodating the bag, the bag comprising a first connector element

and the dispensing device comprising a second connector element, connectable to the first connector element allowing discharge of said substance from the bag,

the dispensing device further comprising retaining means for retaining the first connector element of each bag in a defined pre-connection position prior to interconnecting the first and second connector elements,

the first and second connector elements being displaceable relative to each other between a connected position and a disconnected position, and the dispensing device comprising actuator means associated with the first or second connector elements for displacing the first and second connector elements relative to each other between the connected and unconnected position,

wherein the housing of the dispensing device allows insertion and removal of the bag in a first direction and the second connector element is displaceable in a second direction.

Claim 42 (new): A system according to claim 41, wherein the housing of the dispensing device allows insertion and removal of the bag in a horizontal direction.

Claim 43 (new): System for dispensing at least one liquid substance, comprising:

- at least one bag filled with a liquid substance which is to be dispensed,
- a dispensing device comprising a housing having a space for accommodating the bag, the bag comprising a first connector element

and the dispensing device comprising a second connector element, connectable to the first connector element allowing discharge of said substance from the bag,

the dispensing device further comprising retaining means for retaining the first connector element of each bag in a defined pre-connection position prior to interconnecting the first and second connector elements,

the first and second connector elements being displaceable relative to each other between a connected position and a disconnected position, and the dispensing device comprising actuator means associated with the first or second connector elements for displacing the first and second connector elements relative to each other between the connected and unconnected position,

wherein the dispensing device comprises detector means for detecting the presence in the space in the housing of a bag or a carrier of one or more bags.

Claim 44 (new): System according to claim 43, wherein the detector means are interconnected to the actuator means so that the second connector element is only displaceable towards the connected position if the presence of the bag or a carrier of one or more bags is detected.

Claim 45 (new): System according to claim 44, wherein the detector means comprise a mechanical detector contacting a part selected from the group consisting of the bag, assembly of bags, or carrier.

Claim 46 (new): System according to claim 44, wherein the detector means comprise a mechanical detector.

Claim 47 (new): System according to claim 46, wherein the detector means are adapted to detect the presence of the base element associated with an assembly of interconnected bags.

Claim 48 (new): System for dispensing at least one liquid substance, comprising:

- at least one bag filled with a liquid substance which is to be dispensed,
- a dispensing device comprising a housing having a space for accommodating the bag, the bag comprising a first connector element

and the dispensing device comprising a second connector element, connectable to the first connector element allowing discharge of said substance from the bag,

the dispensing device further comprising retaining means for retaining the first connector element of each bag in a defined pre-connection position prior to interconnecting the first and second connector elements,

the first and second connector elements being displaceable relative to each other between a connected position and a disconnected position, and the dispensing device comprising actuator means associated with the first or second connector elements for displacing the first and second connector elements relative to each other between the connected and unconnected position,

wherein a latch is associated with the actuator means, said latch preventing displacement of the second connector element towards the connected position if no bag, assembly of bags or carrier is detected.

Claim 49 (new): System for dispensing at least one liquid substance, comprising:

- at least one bag filled with a liquid substance which is to be dispensed,
- a dispensing device comprising a housing having a space for accommodating the bag, the bag comprising a first connector element

and the dispensing device comprising a second connector element, connectable to the first connector element allowing discharge of said substance from the bag,

the dispensing device further comprising retaining means for retaining the first connector element of each bag in a defined pre-connection position prior to interconnecting the first and second connector elements,

the first and second connector elements being displaceable relative to each other between a connected position and a disconnected position, and the dispensing device comprising actuator means associated with the first or second connector elements for displacing the first and second connector elements relative to each other between the connected and unconnected position,

wherein the space in the housing is adapted to receive an assembly of multiple bags, each bag being provided with an associated first connector element, and wherein a base element is provided interconnecting the first connector elements of the bags, and

wherein the dispensing device has multiple second connector elements mounted on a common support, said common support being displaceable between a connected and an unconnected position and comprising a removable support member on which the second connector elements are mounted.

Claim 50 (new): System for dispensing at least one liquid substance, comprising:

- at least one bag filled with a liquid substance which is to be dispensed,
- a dispensing device comprising a housing having a space for accommodating the bag, the bag comprising a first connector element

and the dispensing device comprising a second connector element, connectable to the first connector element allowing discharge of said substance from the bag,

the dispensing device further comprising retaining means for retaining the first connector element of each bag in a defined pre-connection position prior to interconnecting the first and second connector elements,

the first and second connector elements being displaceable relative to each other between a connected position and a disconnected position, and the dispensing device comprising actuator means associated with the first or second connector elements for displacing the first and second connector elements relative to each other between the connected and unconnected position,

wherein the actuator means comprise rectilinear guide means for guiding the second connector element.

Claim 51 (new): System for dispensing at least one liquid substance, comprising:

- at least one bag filled with a liquid substance which is to be dispensed,
- a dispensing device comprising a housing having a space for accommodating the bag, the bag comprising a first connector element

and the dispensing device comprising a second connector element, connectable to the first connector element allowing discharge of said substance from the bag,

the dispensing device further comprising retaining means for retaining the first connector element of each bag in a defined pre-connection position prior to interconnecting the first and second connector elements,

the first and second connector elements being displaceable relative to each other between a connected position and a disconnected position, and the dispensing device comprising actuator means associated with the first or second connector elements for displacing the first and second connector elements relative to each other between the connected and unconnected position,

wherein the actuator means comprise a slideable member that is slideable at right angles to rectilinear guide means and interconnected to the second connector element by a cam mechanism.

Claim 52 (new): System according to claim 51, wherein said cam mechanism comprises an interengaging slot and follower.

Claim 53 (new): System according to claim 52, wherein the slot is provided in the slideable member and the follower is mounted on a common support of the second elements.

Claim 54 (new): System for dispensing at least one liquid substance, comprising:

- at least one bag filled with a liquid substance which is to be dispensed,
- a dispensing device comprising a housing having a space for accommodating the bag, the bag comprising a first connector element

and the dispensing device comprising a second connector element, connectable to the first connector element allowing discharge of said substance from the bag,

the dispensing device further comprising retaining means for retaining the first connector element of each bag in a defined pre-connection position prior to interconnecting the first and second connector elements,

the first and second connector elements being displaceable relative to each other between a connected position and a disconnected position, and the dispensing device comprising actuator means associated with the first or second connector elements for displacing the first and second connector elements relative to each other between the connected and unconnected position,

wherein the dispensing device is a postmix beverage dispensing device having mixing means for mixing the one or more liquids with water.

Claim 55 (new): System for dispensing at least one liquid substance, comprising:

- at least one bag filled with a liquid substance which is to be dispensed,
- a dispensing device comprising a housing having a space for accommodating the bag, the bag comprising a first connector element

and the dispensing device comprising a second connector element, connectable to the first connector element allowing discharge of said substance from the bag,

the dispensing device further comprising retaining means for retaining the first connector element of each bag in a defined pre-connection position prior to interconnecting the first and second connector elements,

the first and second connector elements being displaceable relative to each other between a connected position and a disconnected position, and the dispensing device comprising actuator means associated with the first or second connector elements for displacing the first and second connector elements relative to each other between the connected and unconnected position,

wherein the space in the housing is adapted to receive an assembly of multiple bags, each bag being provided with an associated first connector element, and wherein a base element is provided interconnecting the first connector elements of the bags, and

wherein a seal is fitted on the base element covering the openings of the first connector elements and the seal is pierceable.